

July 30, 2003

RE: SBC Long Distance Application-Ohio

The Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce has long been a proponent of competition and has supported many initiatives to assist our 4100 businesses which make up our membership with the opportunity to compete in the local, national and international marketplace. The issue of SBC's application to enter the Long Distance market in the State of Ohio is no different, and we support their efforts to gain the approval of the FCC.

SBC's entry in the Long Distance market will provide not only our members, but all businesses and residents in the State of Ohio the benefits accrued by numerous other states where the incumbent carrier is able to provide both local and long distance services. Competition means more choices, reduced prices, and greater capital investments. It makes sense that the State of Ohio should follow the example of what Nevada, California, Florida, and Tennessee and other states have done. It is also reasonable and prudent that Ohio takes the same position and thereby is afforded the same opportunities and benefits.

A study conducted by the Center for Regional Economic Issues at Case Western Reserve University demonstrated that SBC's entry into the Long Distance market will stimulate the economy, create new employment opportunities, generate additional tax revenue and increase capital investment in the State of Ohio. Case researchers studied historical data from states where the local carrier has already been authorized to offer long distance service and found long distance rates fell by 15 - 25 percent. These are savings that not just our Chamber members but all businesses throughout the state can then utilize to purchase additional goods and services, making them more competitive and further stimulating the state's economy.

I encourage the FCC to approve SBC's application and keep Ohio engaged and a partner in the telecommunication / technology revolution.

Sincerely,

Mark A V'Soske, CAE

President

Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce